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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2005

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Cassis Amber Alert abuse bill goes to governor

LANSING - The Senate today gave final approval to legislation sponsored by state Sen. Nancy Cassis that penalizes people who falsely report an Amber Alert.

“When someone falsely reports an Amber Alert, valuable law enforcement resources are wasted,” said Cassis, R-Novi. “Clearly this is a serious offense and this legislation makes it plain that Amber Alerts are not to be abused.”

Senate Bill 134 and a companion measure, SB 74, make it a felony to falsely report an Amber Alert and establish a penalty of up to four years in prison and fines up to \$2,000.

Cassis sponsored Public Act 712 of 2002, which created Amber Alert of Michigan, a coordinated notification system between national, state and local law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to quickly locate abducted children through radio and television broadcast bulletins.

The measure now goes to the governor for her signature.

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